

Office of the Governor

July 31, 2006

Drake D. Hill, Chairman
Wyoming Republican Party
P.O. Box 241
Casper, WY 82602-0241

RE: Public Records Request

Dear Mr. Hill:

I have read your latest letter, dated July 28th, with interest, and frankly some degree of surprise.

It is my understanding that on Friday morning, July 28th, you spent approximately two hours at the Department of Corrections, reviewing materials department personnel had spent literally hundreds of hours assembling at your request.

Following that cursory review, you now write a new letter seeking to amend your earlier request so that you won't have so much material to look at. While I might sympathize with the enormity of your task now, I point out that this is a task of your own making.

In a letter dated June 9, 2006, you requested "All documents and materials **of any kind whatsoever related to any** 'sole source' contracts entered into by the Office of the Governor, the Wyoming Attorney General's office, or **any State agency, department, board, or commission, for legal or other services provided.**" (Emphasis added.)

You went on in that letter to emphasize that "The phrase 'any and all documents and materials of any kind whatsoever' is intended to be interpreted in the **broadest sense possible . . .**" You said your request include[d] "**all materials in your files**, whether created by you, another State Agency, a Federal Agency, private organizations, public organizations, governmental entities, or individuals." (Emphasis added.)

Subsequently I met with you and advised you of the enormity and complexity of your request, in this area as well as the many other records you requested. You advised me you would try to narrow your request. However, in your letter of June 28, you did not


narrow the request, but stated your opinion that **"this should not be an onerous request."**

Since your original letter, you should know that State employees have spent thousands of hours of their time in an attempt to gather and make available what you asked for. I know that in many cases this has involved work after hours and on weekends, because they have also been required to perform their regular duties at the same time they attempt to comply with your request. While they were doing this, you insulted them by writing, and releasing to the media, on July 21, another letter complaining that they were not doing this work quickly enough to suit you.

Now, after all that, you have apparently finally realized what a huge task you imposed upon State employees. You have gone to the Department of Corrections and seen what a huge quantity of material comprises **"All documents of any kind whatsoever related to any sole source contract"** as that request is **"interpreted in the broadest sense possible."** And, I take it, you now realize that you really don't want to be bothered reading all of that. You now say, **"We are not interested in correspondence or emails or other materials relating to the sole source contracts."** You now want to **"limit our request to"** the contracts themselves and "contract control sheets." (Emphasis added.) Apparently you now want those same State employees to go back and spend more hours culling through all the material you originally requested. However, in those agencies where they exist, the "contract control sheets" will be provided to you in the form in which they are available.

Mr. Hill, you are simply far too late in your realization of the unreasonable nature of your original request. We have gathered the material you requested and will make it available to you as the law requires. In fact the Wyoming Public Records Act requires merely that the State agencies provide access to and allow the inspection of the records. It is now your responsibility to review it as you requested, and it is now your turn to invest the time required to do that.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter C. Maxfield", written in a cursive style.

Peter C. Maxfield
Counsel to the Governor

PCM:pjb